

Meeting Date: July 30, 2018

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1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6
West Sacramento, CA 95691
www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov

MEETING SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS
Board Meeting – May 23, 2018
Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Headquarters
45211 County Road 32B (Chiles Road), Davis, CA

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 9:08 a.m. by Chair Katherine Miller.

From 9:08 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., the Delta Conservancy Board participated in a tour of the Yolo Bypass Corridors for Flood Escape on the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Project and received presentations on the Fish Friendly Farming Certification Program for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the Conservancy's grant application for the USEPA 2018 Nonpoint Source Grant Program.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

Board Members Present:

Katherine Miller, Dolly Sandoval, Karen Mitchoff, Don Thomas, Jim Provenza, Sandi Matsumoto, Todd Ferrara, Karen Finn, Leo Winternitz

Ex Officio Members Present:

None

Liaison Advisors Present:

Charlotte Ambrose, Steve Chappell, Robin Kulakow, Natasha Nelson

Chair Miller introduced and welcomed new Board Members Leo Winternitz (Assembly appointee) and Sandi Matsumoto (Governor appointee).

Chair Miller thanked Conservancy, Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, and Yolo Basin Foundation staff, and the grantees for hosting the Board meeting and the project tour.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS TAKEN

1. Agenda Item 5 – Consent Calendar (*Action Item*)

MOTION: *Vice Chair Sandoval moved, with a second from Board Member Finn, to approve the summary of the March 28, 2018 Board meeting. No other issues were included in the consent calendar.*

A voice vote was taken by the Board to approve the motion.

2. Agenda Item 6 – Executive Officer's Report

The Executive Officer announced that Board Liaison, Brandon Chapin, will be leaving the Conservancy to take a promotion with the Delta Stewardship Council where he will manage the Meeting Services and Special Projects Office. The Conservancy has also hired Kirt Sandhu as an Environmental Scientist working on the Delta Mercury Exposure Program. The Executive Officer presented the Program Update that included information on the Central Delta Corridor Partnership, the Arundo Control and Restoration Project, the Delta Aquatic Resources Inventory, the 2018 Nonpoint Source Grant Program, Creek Week, the Delta Mercury Exposure Program, and the Delta Marketing Project.

Debra Kustic presented the Expenditure Report, which included an overview of the Conservancy's current finances. The Program and Policy Subcommittee will be discussing the content of the Expenditure Report at a future meeting.

The Executive Officer presented the Outreach-Delta Meeting Matrix. There was no correspondence to report.

3. Agenda Item 7 – Program and Policy Subcommittee Update

Debra Kustic provided the Program and Policy Subcommittee update. The Subcommittee met on April 19, 2018 and included a discussion of the Proposition 1 Grant Program Cycle 4 Draft Grant Guidelines, the Draft Delta Awareness Sign Plan, and the upcoming end of the fiscal year. It is anticipated that the Subcommittee will discuss the establishment of an agricultural advisory group and the exploration of land ownership at its next meeting on June 21, 2018.

4. Agenda Item 8 – Proposition 1 Grant Program Update

Laura Jensen provided an update on the Proposition 1 Grant Program and thanked staff and the grantees for the tour and presentations earlier in the meeting. Ms. Jensen provided status updates on awarded projects with substantial status changes since the last Board meeting. Amendments are expected for the Three Creeks Parkway Restoration and the Yolo Bypass Corridors for Flood Escape on the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area projects. These amendments are anticipated to be brought to the Board for consideration at future meetings. Staff expects the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project to be brought to the Board for consideration at the July 25, 2018 Board Meeting.

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5. Agenda Item 9 – Request for Approval to Release the Public Draft of the Proposition 1 Cycle 4 Grant Guidelines (*Action Item*)

Laura Jensen presented the public draft of the Proposition 1 Cycle 4 Grant Guidelines. The draft Guidelines will be posted for public review and the final draft will be presented to the Board for consideration at the July 30, 2018 Board meeting. Cycle 4 will open in August. Ms. Jensen outlined the changes made to the Grant Guidelines from the last iteration of the document, with the following major changes:

- Move Board consideration of funding recommendations from March 2019 to May 2019 to provide more time for internal review
- Make all remaining funding available for award (approximately \$12.4 million)
- Streamline the Grant Guidelines to increase readability by moving some sections to appendices
- Increase the Project Description evaluation criteria point total from 10 to 13
- Increase the Budget evaluation criteria point total from 5 to 7
- Decrease the Local Support evaluation criteria point total from 20 to 15

Board Member Provenza stated that while he agrees with increasing the point totals for the project description and budget evaluation criteria recommended by staff, he was concerned with lowering the point total for the local support evaluation criteria; he asserted that reducing the points lessens the importance of local support.

Board Member Sandoval noted that the recommended scoring provides equal points for alignment with state priorities and local support.

The Board discussed Board Member Provenza's concerns and ultimately voted to approve the draft Grant Guidelines for posting.

MOTION: Board Member Mitchoff moved, seconded by Board Member Ferrara, to approve the release of a public draft of the Proposition 1 Cycle 4 Grant Guidelines as recommended by Staff, with the addition of clarifying language regarding resolutions from County Board of Supervisors and the amendment process.

A roll call vote was taken with the motion passing 8-1.

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6. Agenda Item 10 – Presentation of the Flood Analysis for the Grizzly Island Slough Floodplain Restoration Project at the Cosumnes River Preserve

Anitra Pawley and Matt Brennan with the Department of Water Resources presented the flood analysis for the planning undertaken for the Grizzly Island Slough Floodplain Restoration Project at the Cosumnes River Preserve.

Board Member Thomas requested information on the drainage of New Hope Road. Matt Brennan confirmed that the project would improve drainage of the road.

7. Agenda Item 11 – Request for Approval of Funding not to Exceed \$93,000 to Support the Rapid Assessment of Aquatic Habitat Restoration Opportunities for Juvenile Salmonids in the Delta
(Action Item)

The Executive Officer presented the staff report and the scope of work for the Rapid Assessment of Aquatic Habitat Restoration Opportunities for Juvenile Salmonids in the Delta project. The agenda item was tabled at the March 28, 2018 Board meeting so that partners could be available to answer questions. The project would conduct a rapid assessment of aquatic habitat restoration and predator disturbance opportunities for juvenile salmonids in the Delta, and identify near-term priority efforts that can be funded by Proposition 1 and other funding sources. The project would be guided by the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (CAMT) working closely with the San Francisco Estuary Institute, the Delta Conservancy, and other partners. The total project costs are estimated to be \$235,000, with the Delta Conservancy providing up to \$93,000. This amount is less than what was requested at the March 28, 2018 Board meeting due to the Delta Stewardship Council providing \$50,000 in funding, with the potential for more funding which would reduce the Delta Conservancy's contribution as a result. Staff recommended that the Board approve a contract for up to \$143,000, with funding from the Delta Conservancy not to exceed \$93,000, to support the Rapid Assessment of Aquatic Habitat Restoration Opportunities for Juvenile salmonids in the Delta, consistent with the scope of work.

Board Member Winternitz noted that he will abstain from this item due to his involvement in the development of the scope of work.

Board Member Provenza expressed concern that an agricultural impact analysis does not appear to be part of the project and stated that an agricultural expert should be retained. Rainer Hoenicke, with the Delta Stewardship Council, stated that the type of analysis requested cannot be undertaken at this point due to not knowing the locations that will be evaluated. However, there are contingency funds available and if an agricultural analysis is need, an expert can be procured. The Executive Officer also stated that the advisory panel, which includes an agricultural representative, would recognize projects that could have a potential impact and designate those for further analysis. The Board discussed the agricultural representation issue.

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Elisa Sabatini, with Yolo County, expressed concern that the agricultural analysis would be done on a project basis, rather than regionally. She also expressed concern related to availability and accessibility of data and adequate public outreach.

Rene Henry, with Trout Unlimited, and Carl Wilcox, with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife each expressed support for the project.

MOTION: Board Member Provenza moved, seconded by Vice Chair Thomas, to approve a contract for up to \$143,000, with funding from the Delta Conservancy not to exceed \$93,000, to support the Rapid Assessment of Aquatic Habitat Restoration Opportunities for Juvenile salmonids in the Delta, consistent with the scope of work provided that the scope of work note that local public outreach will be conducted and that agricultural, water supply, and endangered species impacts are considered in the analysis.

A roll call vote was taken with the motion passing 8-0 (Board Member Winternitz abstained).

8. Agenda Item 12 – Request for Approval of Funding not to Exceed \$50,000 to Augment the Existing Agreement with the Delta Protection Commission for Sign Placement in the Delta (Action Item)

Brandon Chapin presented the staff report and amended scope of work for existing agreement with the Delta Protection Commission. The Delta Conservancy currently has an agreement with the Delta Protection Commission for the development and production of a Delta recreation map and for the manufacture and placement of signs in the Delta consistent with the Delta Awareness Sign Plan (under development at the time of the May Board meeting). This request would augment the existing agreement with additional funding to produce and place more signs in the Delta. Staff recommended that the Board approve funding not to exceed \$50,000 to augment the Delta Conservancy's existing agreement with the Delta Protection Commission to place signs in the Delta consistent with the Delta Awareness Sign Plan.

MOTION: Vice Chair Sandoval moved, seconded by Board Member Ferrara, to approve funding not to exceed \$50,000 to augment the Delta Conservancy's existing agreement with the Delta Protection Commission to place signs in the Delta consistent with the Delta Awareness Sign Plan.

A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting to approve the motion.

9. Agenda Item 13 – Yolo Habitat Conservation Plan Update

Due to time constraints, this item was tabled until a future Board meeting.

10. Agenda Item 14 – Delta Stewardship Council Update

Due to time constraints, this item was tabled until the July 30, 2018 Board meeting.

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Board Member Ferrara requested that the regular updates on the Delta Stewardship Council, California Water Fix, Eco Restore, and the Delta Protection Commission be included as a written part of the Program Update.

11. Agenda Item 15 – California Water Fix and Eco Restore Updates

Due to time constraints, this item was tabled until the July 30, 2018 Board meeting.

12. Agenda Item 16 – Delta Protection Commission

Due to time constraints, this item was tabled until the July 30, 2018 Board meeting.

13. Agenda Item 17 –Potential Agenda Items for the July Board Meeting

The Executive Officer provided the Board with a list of the tentative agenda items for the July 30, 2018 Board Meeting. Potential agenda items include:

- Request for Approval of the Proposition 1 Cycle 4 Grant Guidelines
- Review and Consideration of the Delta Awareness Sign Plan
- Status Update on the Delta Conservancy's 2017-2022 Strategic Plan and 2018 Implementation Plan

No other agenda items were requested by the Board.

14. Agenda Item 18 – Public Comments

No public comment.

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

- Board Member Ferrara suggested Staff consider that the regular updates for the Delta Stewardship Council, California WaterFix, EcoRestore and the Delta Protection Commission be included as written summaries in the Board meeting materials.

MEETING ADJOURNED by Chair Katherine Miller at 1:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted on May 30, 2018

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

Prepared by Brandon Chapin, Board Liaison

Contact

Debra Kustic, Deputy Executive Officer

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

Email: debra.kustic@deltaconservancy.ca.gov

Phone: (916) 375-2084

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Audio files of Board meetings are available on the Board Meeting Materials section of the Delta Conservancy web page at www.DeltaConservancy.ca.gov. Board meetings are typically scheduled from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm; using the meeting agenda to help locate topics of interest within the audio file is recommended.

DRAFT